

UNINTENDED PREGNANCY

Definition: Any pregnancy that was wanted later (mistimed) or not wanted at any time.

Significance: Women who have an unintended pregnancy are less likely to seek prenatal care, take a multivitamin, and/or breastfeed. They are also more likely to smoke during and after pregnancy and/or experience perinatal depression.

Healthy People 2010 Objective: 70% of pregnancies are intended.

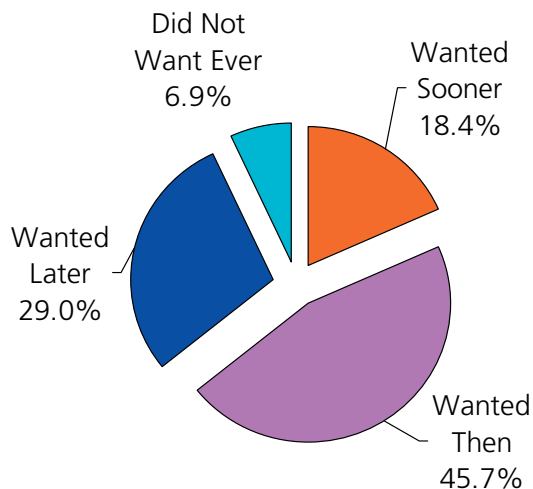


PRAMS

Summary

- Overall, 35.9% of births among Rhode Island women during 2002-2003 resulted from pregnancies that were unintended (29% of the pregnancies were wanted later, and 6.9% were not wanted at any time).

Intention of Pregnancy
Rhode Island, 2002-2003



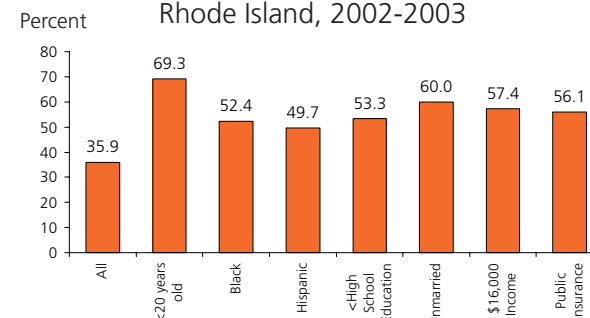
Maternal Characteristics

- Teenagers were more than 3 times as likely to have an unintended pregnancy than women aged 30 or older (69.3% vs 21.2%).
- Unintended pregnancy rates were higher among Blacks or African Americans (52.4%) and women of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity (49.7%) than Whites (33.7%).
- Women with less than a high school education (53.3%); unmarried women (60.0%); women with annual household incomes less than \$16,000 (57.4%); and women with public health insurance (56.1%) had unintended pregnancy rates 2-3 times higher than their counterparts.
- Women with unintended pregnancies were less likely to receive prenatal care in the first trimester than women whose pregnancies were intended (72.3% vs 86.8%).
- Women were twice as likely to have a hard time during pregnancy if their pregnancy was unintended than women whose pregnancy was intended (29.4% vs 14.8%). Similarly, women were more likely to experience postpartum depression when their pregnancy was unintended than women whose pregnancy was intended (22.8% vs 16.8%).
- Women whose pregnancy was unintended were less likely to ever breastfeed their baby than women whose pregnancy was intended (63.6% vs 72.8%).
- Tobacco use during pregnancy was more

prevalent among women whose pregnancy was unintended than among women whose pregnancy was intended (16.6% vs 9.1%).

- Women whose pregnancy was unintended were more likely to not take a multivitamin prior to pregnancy than women whose pregnancy was intended (70.1% vs 40.7%).

Unintended Pregnancy
by Selected Characteristics
Rhode Island, 2002-2003



Reasons for Not Using Birth Control

- Among women with an unintended pregnancy, 52.9% were not using contraception at the time of conception.
- Among women with an unintended pregnancy who did not use birth control, nearly one in three (31.2%) did not mind if they became pregnant; 29.6% thought they could not get pregnant at that time; and 24.5% stated that their husband or partner did not want to use any contraceptive.